

**Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**

256-101

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

ACI will procure a composite dust collection system from Clayton Associates, Inc., including specialized dust control tools and HEPA vacuum systems designed for hazardous composite materials.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

Composite manufacturing generates hazardous carbon fiber and fiberglass dust requiring effective point-of-use extraction. The Clayton system provides localized capture, minimizes airborne particulates, and supports safety, contamination control, and aerospace quality standards. It is specifically engineered for conductive composite dust, unlike general industrial systems.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

Clayton Associates, Inc. is the original equipment manufacturer and sole provider of these products. They do not use distributors or agents, and no other vendor offers equivalent composite-specific system design or capabilities.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

The quoted cost reflects a system tailored to ACI operations, including equipment and installation. The pricing is reasonable given its specialized design, safety benefits, and ability to avoid costly centralized infrastructure while supporting flexible operations.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

ACI conducted industry research, vendor evaluations, and benchmarking. This confirmed that other systems lack the required composite-specific capabilities. Pricing was obtained directly from Clayton and reflects the best value for the required functionality.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Jennifer Mayfield, CPPO

Interim Deputy Director of Procurement & Contracts

jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.